

HOME LANGUAGE SURVEY GUIDELINES

Schools distribute a Home Language Survey requiring pertinent information to ascertain whether a student should be considered for ELL identification and/or placement.

Such questions may include:

Does your child speak any language other than English? _____ YES _____ NO

If yes, please answer the following questions:

1. What was the first language your child learned to speak?
2. What language does your child speak most often?
3. What language is most often spoken in your home?

To ensure the most appropriate placement, additional information should be gathered, such as:

1. when the student first enrolled in U.S. schools,
2. where the student attended school (in every grade), and
3. whether or not the student has received ELL instruction

This is a tentative five-step process for identifying and placing ELL students in an appropriate language program that assures them of an equitable, quality education. Because consideration of the students' first (L1) and second language (L2) proficiency is crucial for decision making, special attention is given to the processes for conducting language proficiency assessments. The five steps include:

1. administering a home language survey;
2. assessing the ELL student's language proficiency level;
3. notifying the ELL student's parents;
4. placing the ELL student in an appropriate grade and language instruction educational program;
5. evaluating program effectiveness.